

## IDENTIFICATION OF TSH RECEPTOR AUTOANTIBODIES USING AFFINITY-PURIFIED ANTIBODIES

### ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to the use of affinity-purified polyclonal human autoantibodies against the TSH receptor (TSHR-Auto-Ab), obtained from the serum of Graves' disease patients and which have been purified to obtain biochemical homogeneity and comprise a specific activity of at least 1 IU/mg protein (human immunoglobulin). Also disclosed is the use of animal antibodies, which compete with the former for the binding sites of a functional human TSH receptor, as a specific binding reagent in an immunological determination method for the clinical identification of autoantibodies against the TSH receptor (TSHR-Auto-Ab) in a sample of a biological fluid of a patient to be examined for Graves' disease.